about 7.5% by weight, and said anticoagulant agent is present in an amount within a range of from about 0.01 to about 5% by weight.--

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated October 5, 2000, claims 1-20, all of the claims pending the above-identified patent application, were rejected.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and allowance of the claims, as amended, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

A substitute specification is being filed concurrently herewith under 37 C.F.R. §1.125(a). The substitute specification contains only subject matter from the original specification and any previously entered amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.121, and does not contain any additional subject matter not of record. In view thereof, Applicant respectfully requests that the substitute specification be entered.

An Information Disclosure Statement citing the PCT publication listed in the specification was filed on October 4, 2000. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement citing the other publications listed in the specification as well as publications listed in a foreign search report is being filed concurrently herewith. Applicant respectfully requests that the publications cited in these Information Disclosure

Statements be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the forms accompanying each Information Disclosure Statement be returned along with acknowledgment that the Information Disclosure Statements have been considered.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Lehner (WO 98/28027) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehner in view of Ito (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,960). Insofar as these rejections may apply to the claims, as amended, they are respectfully traversed.

As amended, claim 1 recites a method of preventing thrombosis formation on a liquid-containing surface of a liquid delivery system comprising a regimen selected from the group consisting of a) forming a seal in the liquid delivery system between delivery of liquids using a thrombosis-preventing liquid containing taurolidine, taurultam or a mixture thereof and an anti-coagulant agent other than taurolidine or taurultam, and b) first contacting the surface with a solution containing a thrombosis-preventing amount of an anti-coagulant agent other than taurolidine or taurultam, and thereafter contacting the surface with a solution containing taurolidine, taurultam or a mixture thereof, the surface contacting steps being repeated between delivery of liquids to the patient.

Lehner discloses a method of combatting infection or sepsis in a delivery system using taurolidine or taurultam.

Lehner does not teach or suggest preventing thrombosis formation using taurolidine or taurultam in combination with an anti-coagulant agent other than taurolidine or taurultam.

Ito discloses use of an agent such as hirudin as a thrombogenesis inhibitor for implantable and extracorporeal devices in contact with the vascular system.

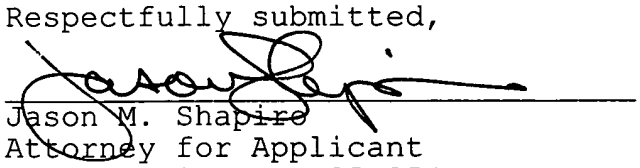
Case law holds that in order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every element of the claim. Additionally, in order for references to render a claim obvious, the references must at least suggest the features of the claim and their combination to persons of ordinary skill in the art. In the present case, neither reference teaches or suggests use of taurolidine or taurultam in combination with another anti-coagulant agent to prevent thrombosis formation on a liquid-containing surface of a liquid delivery system, much less preventing thrombosis by forming a seal in the liquid delivery system between delivery of liquids or separately administering such agents between delivery of liquids. Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Lehner alone or in combination with Ito. Claims 2-15 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are submitted to patentable over Lehner and Ito for the reasons set forth above as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claims 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reinmuller (U.S. 5,077,281) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinmuller in view of Ito. Claims 16-20 have been canceled by amendment above, obviating these rejections.

Newly added claims 21-23 are directed to a liquid delivery system in combination with a thrombosis-preventing seal, wherein the seal comprises a pharmaceutically-acceptable liquid containing taurolidine, taurultam or a mixture thereof and an anti-coagulant agent other than taurolidine or taurultam. Since, as discussed above, none of the cited references teach or suggest sealing a liquid delivery system using taurolidine or taurultam in combination with an anti-coagulant other than taurolidine or taurultam, claims 21-23 are also submitted to be patentable.

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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